

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 18, 19, 23, 32 and 33 have been amended. Claim 20 has been canceled without prejudice. Thus, Claims 1-19, and 21-42 are pending in this application.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims 11, 14, 25, 28, 39, and 40. Applicant respectfully disagrees. These claims include process limitations by which certain structures of the arrangements can be obtained. Drawings with respect to such processes would, therefore, not be practical and would not be necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented according to C.F.R §1.81(a) and §1.83.

Claim objections:

The Examiner objected to claims 7 and 8 for restating claim limitations. Applicant inadvertently included wrong claim references. Therefore, Applicant amended the claims 7, 8, and 9 to include the proper claim reference.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 13, 16, 18-21, 23, 25-27, 30, 32-35, 37, 39, 41, and 42 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Williams et al. Applicant amended the independent claims to more clearly define the invention. Therefore Applicant respectfully disagrees. The present invention includes limitations neither shown nor suggested in Williams.

The Examiner stated that Williams discloses an annular structure, particularly in Fig. 9 and col. 8, lines 29-32. Applicant agrees with the Examiner, that Williams discloses a specific annular transistor structure in the left part of Fig. 9. However, the present invention is not related to an annular transistor structure but rather to a transistor structure as shown in Fig. 1 and 2 of the present specification which shows stripe-shaped source, drain, and channel regions. Such structures allow specifically for a double transistor structure as shown in Fig. 1 and 2 of the present application. According

to the limitations of the independent claims, such a structure is surrounded by a ring structure. However, the transistor proper remains of a stripe shape.

Williams, on the contrary shows an annular transistor structure with an annular source, an annular gate and a center drain structure. However, such a structure cannot be expanded to a dual transistor structure. As can be seen in Fig. 9, the left and right source regions are interconnected or basically one single source region.

Only a stripe shaped source region as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 allows for a dual transistor structure which uses a common drain region and two source regions on opposite sides. Moreover, according to the amended independent claim 1, the ring structure overlaps with the source region and otherwise extends from the surface of the active region into the active region. In non-annular transistor structures such a ring structure is not known in the art.

Furthermore, Williams does not show a dual transistor structure as defined in claims 6, 18, and 34 using a common drain region. The annular structure in Fig. 9 of Williams is a single transistor, structure 903 and 904 are single transistors with separate source and drain regions.

Dependent claims

The Examiner further rejected claims 5, 7-9, 22, and 36 under USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Leong. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As stated above Williams does neither disclose nor suggest the limitations of independent claims 1, 18, 32, respectively. The dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims and are, thus, patentable at least to the extent of the independent claim. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests to defer any reasoning with respect to the patentability of these claims at this time.

SUMMARY


In light of the above remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested. It is further submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the agent of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*,) Order Number 068736.0232.

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